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Project: **IP-135**

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: **27 June 1950**

To: **D/FE**

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: **No-Chi-Minh**

Statement of Project:

25X1A

Origin: Internal (Case [REDACTED])

Problem: To evaluate rumor that subject is dead and to furnish information on understudy if such exists.

Scope:

Graphics (if any):

Form: Memorandum

Draft due in D/Pub: As soon as convenient

Responsible Division: **D/FE**

Dissemination deadline
(if any)

Internal Coordination:

Departmental Responsibilities:

Classification to be no higher than: **Secret**

Recommended Dissemination: Requester only

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Responsible Division: D/FE

Dissemination deadline
(if any).

Internal Coordination: A

Departmental Responsibilities:

Classification to be no higher than: SECRET

Recommended Dissemination: Requester only

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1. Indochina
2. * Ho Chi - Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000200050005-6

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51450

15 June 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/Pub, ORE
25X1A

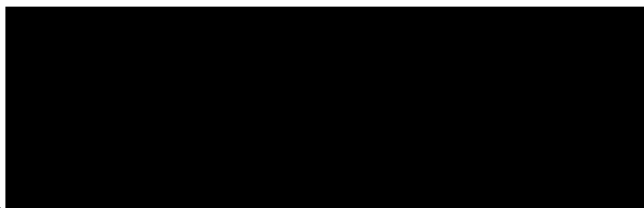
ATTENTION : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Ho-Chi-Minh
25X1A

REFERENCE : Case [REDACTED]

1. It has come to the attention of this office that there is a rumor that subject is dead.
2. It is known that Ho-Chi-Minh has suffered a malignancy for several years and that Indo-Chinese insurgents have been grooming another man to replace him.
3. It is requested that you evaluate the above rumor and supply this office with any available information on Ho-Chi-Minh's understudy, if in fact one does exist.
25X1A
4. [REDACTED] of this office, extension 3215, is acquainted with this request.

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FREE

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "To" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "To" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This record and Routing Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:	25X1A [REDACTED]	NO.
		<i>C 26109</i>
		DATE
		15 June 1950

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. D/Pub, 25X1A ATTN: [REDACTED]					6/20 Carlson to [REDACTED] - D/EE - to discuss with [REDACTED] 25X1A
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
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Note: The classification of this memorandum must be raised to conform to the classification of the draft it covers.

Date 7 July 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Transmission of ~~////~~ Report

ENCLOSURE: IP-135 "Ho Chi Minh"

(3 copies)

1. Enclosure is forwarded herewith for review and, if required, for formal coordination with the departmental intelligence organizations.

No

2. This draft report has been coordinated informally with the organizations checked below:

None

Within CIA:

D/GI	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/In	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/IA	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/Tr	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/WE	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/EE	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/Ma	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/FE	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/EC	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/NE	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outside CIA:

State (OIR)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Army (ID/GSUSA)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navy (ONI)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air (AID)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Maps and/or Graphics to be included in this report and arrangements completed for their production by the Map Division or the Presentation Staff are as follows:

No

4. Comments:

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for Chief,

25X1A

D/FE
Division

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5 July 1950

IP-135

SUBJECT: Ho Chi Minh

The following information on Ho Chi Minh is from documentary material available in D/PB QRE:

a. Rumor that Ho Chi Minh is dead.

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No reliable information from other sources is available. The correspondent of the Paris newspaper FRANCE SOIR reported from Indochina in May that according to a "very reliable source" Ho Chi Minh is "alive and flourishing, but no longer participates actively in leading the Viet Minh." Broadcasts of the "Republic of Vietnam" radio cite Ho's physical presence at a cabinet meeting of mid-May 1950.

b. Ho's alleged malignancy.

Ho is known to have been ailing for many years. He is reported to have been suffering from tuberculosis as early as 1933. However, he was very much on his feet during 1946. Although he was bed-ridden just before the evacuation of Hanoi by the Republican government in December 1946, he was reported by the last neutral observers to see him alive to have been on his feet again in May 1947 or shortly thereafter.

c. Ho's successor.

Available sources of information do not point clearly to any single individual as the most likely successor to Ho. There are several leading candidates who are identified below together with their qualifications for the job; all are Communists:

Vo Nguyen Giap - a relatively young man (about 40) who commands great power and prestige as C-in-C of Armed Forces and Minister of National Defense. He is a Communist and has generally been regarded as Number 2 man in the Republic of Vietnam.

Pham Van Dong - Vice-Premier of the Republic of Vietnam; appointed to that position in July 1949. He is a veteran of Vietnamese revolutionary activity, and is a man of great energy and intelligence.

Dang Xuan Khu (alias Truong Chinh) - Although not publicly prominent until his recent emergence under the alias Truong Chinh, this person has been active in the Republic of Vietnam since its founding. He has almost certainly been a member of the Directing Committee (Tong Ho) of the Viet Minh. His portrait was one of three which were prominently displayed (the others were those of Ho Chi

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of January 1950.

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Ma Ba Cang (alias Hoang Quoc Viet) - His career parallels that of Dang Xuan Khu. Previously little publicized, though long active as a Communist organizer, Hoang Quoc Viet has emerged as the powerful incumbent of two key, semi-official, positions: Secretary General of the Viet Minh, and Chairman of the Vietnamese General Confederation of Labor

Nguyen Khanh Toan - Under-secretary and reportedly the real power within the Ministry of Education. He is reported by Ho Government sources to have studied in Moscow. [REDACTED] quoting Hong Kong press sources specifically cited Toan as Ho Chi Minh's successor. The relatively poor publicity which he has received in Ho Government sources tends to belie this report.

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